

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT North Korean Guerrillas in the Chiri-san Area

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1. The organization and dispatch of guerrilla troops to work in the Republic of Korea are under the direction of the Fifteenth Bureau, North Korean Department of National Defense. Guerrilla personnel are selected from various political and social organizations affiliated with the North Korean Labor Party and from the ranks of the North Korean army. Enlistment is termed voluntary but is actually on a compulsory basis.

2. When dispatched to the ROK, guerrillas are promised by the North Korean Department of National Defense that they will be returned to North Korea after six months of guerrilla work in the ROK and that upon their return they will receive commissions as officers in the North Korean army. Control over the guerrilla troops is maintained by the threat of capital punishment if the guerrilla shirks duty or defects and of punishment to members of his family in North Korea.

3. North Korean guerrillas in the ROK have their general headquarters in the Chiri-san (127-42, 35-18) area. From this point units are sent in small groups into surrounding areas with a rendezvous at a fixed point and date. One group, sent out late in December 1950 to the mountainous area surrounding Mupung-myeon (127-50, 35-56), North Cholla Province, was charged with the task of destroying road and railway bridges between Taegu and Pusan at various points.

4. Guerrilla units with their members disguised in ROK police or army uniforms carry on reconnaissance during the day. Their main targets are railroads, communications, and rail and road bridges at vital points. At night, they raid villages for food and clothing, and in areas where manpower has been seriously depleted by conscription even capture livestock for food supplies.

5. Guerrilla activity is systematic. Seven or eight members of a unit reconnoiter an area during the day to spot police or troops and note details of possible defense and topographical obstacles. Then at night 70 to 80 men may return with guides to carry out an attack on their target. Armament is limited to rifles and hand grenades, with a few Soviet PPSH.

CLASSIFICATION

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